

Letter from the TCDE Service Award Winner

A Life-long Saga with Data Engineering

It is my great honor to receive this prestigious TCDE Service Award in recognition of my life-long contribution to the data engineering community over 3 to 4 decades. I am retired now but, looking back, I have really been privileged to serve our community for the advancement of the data engineering discipline through various opportunities.

ICDE, TCDE, and VLDB Endowment

I had opportunities to serve VLDB and ICDE in various capacities including the general chair (VLDB2006), honorary general chair (ICDE 2015), a PC co-chair (VLDB2000, ICDE 2006), ICDE steering committee member (2007-2015), VLDB Endowment trustee twice (1998-2003, 2010-2015), and TCDE executive including chair and advisor (2011-2022). An early contributor of ICDE from the 2nd conference in 1986 as a PC member, I also served as a program co-chair or vice chair many times in initial years from 1989 helping to settle the newly established conference. I am glad that ICDE has continuously been a top conference in the data engineering field. During my tenure as the TCDE Chair, we significantly broadened TCDE activities raising the level of vitality and prestige of TCDE. We initiated TCDE Archives restoring many years of institutional memory, newly instituted the IEEE TCDE Awards, and initiated membership promotion tripling the membership. In the VLDB Endowment, we have done a lot to promote global database research, but I would like to note on two efforts in particular. The first one is "broadening"; the scope of database research, in which I participated as an endowment trustee and PC co-chair (VLDB2000). This effort started from VLDB2000, resulting in the creation of the "Infrastructure for Information System (IIS)" track in 2002. The IIS track had lasted until 2013 when it was merged back with the Core DB track to a single one as it fulfilled its original mission. This broadening initiative significantly enlarged the scope of database research as it is today. The second one is that the endowment eagerly supported the Asia-Pacific region, then lagging in database research, to help bring it up to a level equivalent to those of the Americas and European regions—by various programs including the "VLDB database school." Nowadays, the Asia-Pacific region stands very strong and competitive with others.

The VLDB Journal

I also had the honor to serve the VLDB Journal for 19 years continuously as a founding editorial board member, an Editor-in-Chief (EIC), and the coordinating EIC (1990-2009). We emphasized on the strong editorial board, identifying timely impactful topics for thematic special issues, guaranteeing timely reviews, and increasing availability. During my tenure as the coordinating EIC, the VLDB Journal ranked the top in the Information Systems field with the highest impact factor (7.067 in 2008) according to Thomson's Science Citation Index. I am glad that nowadays the VLDB Journal stands itself as a top journal in the data engineering field.

Awards Committees

It was an honor to serve many prestigious awards committees including the SIGMOD Jim Gray dissertation award committee (2007-2012), the VLDB 10-year best paper award committee ('03,'05,'06,'10,'12), ICDE Influential paper award committee (2004-2008), TCDE awards committee (2014-2017 as advisor and member), DASFAA awards committee (2011-2019 as chair and member), and many best paper award committees including ICDE2006 (as chair) helping to ensure high academic standards.

Asia-Pacific

I also was privileged to serve the Asia-Pacific community through steering committee activities of DASFAA including chair, advisor, and awards chair for 15 years (1999-2014). An early contributor from the 2nd conference in 1991 as a PC co-chair, I helped establish the current stature of DASFAA and globalize the DASFAA conferences. I am glad that DASFAA stands itself now as a prestigious data engineering conference serving the world-wide community as well as the Asia-Pacific one. I also had an opportunity to contribute to PAKDD as a life member of the steering committee and to the Korea-Japan Database (KJDB) Working Group as a co-founder, chair, and advisor promoting active academic exchanges through annual KJDB workshops.

Korea

A no less important goal of my effort was to help bring up the level of data engineering research in Korea to a global one, which was barely sprouting when I first came back to Korea in 1990. I served as the chair of the Special Interest Group on Databases of the Korea Information Science Society (SIGDB of KISS—later renamed to be the Database Society of KIISE) in early 90's and the president of the Korean Institute of information Scientists and Engineers (KIISE) in '20's, through which I promoted globalization of computer science and data engineering research in Korea—including hosting VLDB2006, PAKDD2003, and DASFAA2004 in Seoul and creating the KIISE JCSE journal and IEEE BigComp conference with KIISE scholars. Today I am glad to see that the Korean data engineering research community stands strong by global standards.

Leadership and Goals

In all my effort in the leadership positions, my primary goals have been to ensure the highest standards for publications and to vitalize the research activities, which I hope made whatever little contribution to the advancement of our field. I wish to share this honor with so many colleagues who selflessly took initiatives, helped, and cooperated in various roles and responsibilities in the course of this decades-long saga. They are true heroes who are behind this flourishing field of data engineering that we are enjoying today. Thank you very much.

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